

USS Constitution Wins Good Neighbor Flagship Award

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Frank E. Neely,
USS Constitution Public Affairs

CHARLESTOWN, Mass. – Commander Navy Region (COMNAVREG) Middle Atlantic (MIDLANT) announced USS Constitution as the 2010 shore Good Neighbor Flagship winner for small commands, Aug. 26.

COMNAVREG MIDLANT gives the award to commands that have the best year-round community service program or special project that encourages activities to provide humanitarian assistance to the less fortunate.

"This award recognizes all the time and effort Constitution's Sailors have given to those in need," said Cmdr. Timothy Cooper, 71st in command of Constitution. "While the command helps organize these wonderful opportunities, at the end of the day it's up to the individual Sailor to decide if he or she wants to participate. Their desire to give something back to the local community is truly inspiring. I could not be more proud of each and every one of them."

Constitution Sailors participated in 35 volunteer projects, lending more than 3,000 hours of community service to win the award.

Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 2nd Class (SW) Jacob Wallace organized Constitution's community service program after checking aboard the ship. He eventually became Constitution's volunteer programs coordinator.

"I noticed when I first got here that Sailors did a lot of volunteer work, but none of it was really being documented or recognized," said Wallace. "I knew the Navy awarded commands for doing volunteer work, so I thought it would be a good idea to organize what we were already doing and show another side of what USS Constitution is capable of."

Constitution will now represent the MIDLANT region in the Navywide competition of this award.

“I think we have a good chance of winning,” said Wallace. “And I think this is a great opportunity for us to show everyone that the USS Constitution provides more to the public than just tours of our ship.

“That job is of course important, but we have another role here, and that role is almost as intense, and it still falls in line with our primary concern of promoting the ship.”

Constitution recognized Wallace for his efforts with a Navy Achievement Medal.

Constitution is located in the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston. She is the world’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and welcomes more than 500,000 visitors a year. For more information on Constitution, visit www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution.